

Training Films

The following paragraphs contain comments on the following films in use in the Office of Training; (1) four-part film on the intelligence process and the DDI; (2) "Resume;" (3) "The Academy Anonymous;" (4) "Vietnam, The Other War;" (5) "In Search of Peace; and (6) "The Third Challenge."

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I. OTR film on the intelligence process and the DDI

This film in four parts, produced in 1962-64, is ostensibly designed to teach certain principles of intelligence and to show the intelligence process and the missions and functions of various components of the Directorate of Intelligence. Part 1 is currently being shown during the orientation for new employees each Monday. Parts 2 and 4 were shown during the Intelligence Orientation section of the current Career Training Program (and, so I understand, are used in the regular I. O. Course). Part 1 is a didactic lead-in but is not connected story-wise to the remaining parts. There is a unifying story line through Parts 2, 3, and 4.

Unfortunately, the film as a whole is very much out of date so far as organizational structure is concerned; worse, it gives a very misleading picture of how the Directorate of Intelligence operates in the world of today. The emphasis throughout most of the film is on the estimative process (somehow or other even [REDACTED] seems to come through primarily in support of NIE production) and virtually nothing is said of the DDI's role in current intelligence production and policy support. The film gives a picture of a very leisurely approach to intelligence -- hardly a correct view of the lively and interesting art it is today.

a. Part 1. The story line here is of a police investigation of a home fire in an American city. An arson suspect, a U.S. citizen, is investigated thoroughly; he is eventually cleared of the arson charge, but, mirabile dictu, is found instead to be guilty of involvement in industrial espionage. The film does

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make its points regarding steps in the intelligence process-- collection, assembly, evaluation, etc.--though the focus is more relevant to operational intelligence analysis by case officers than to the work of the average DDI analyst. Even so, and even though I would not rate the film high on sophistication, the points are made.

However, I would fault the film on several counts and at least throw a question mark on some of the possible side implications.

(1) While there may be merit in teaching a lesson on familiar ground--in this case, an American city--there would seem to me to be an unnecessary risk. here, a small one perhaps, that newcomers to the Agency might get the impression, subliminally if you will, that CIA was somehow or other involved in the intense investigation in a U.S. city of a U.S. citizen suspected of arson against a private U.S. home. It would seem the lesson could be taught better by CIA in a foreign context.

(2) The suspect in question is an ostensibly respectable citizen who acted somewhat suspiciously when seen by police near the scene of the fire. The film seems to make the point that if the investigation had proceeded quickly and correctly, the suspect would have been cleared promptly and the case could have been closed; but because the investigation did not go quickly and well, it could turn up the other adverse information. It does not take a very lively imagination to draw some troublesome conclusions from this.

(3) My impression, right or wrong, on seeing the film was that the police has rather thin grounds for such an intense investigation of the private life of an apparently respectable U.S. citizen. Heaven knows what police-state phantasms (and misapprehensions about CIA) this might help germinate in the minds of, say, our young new clericals!

b. Parts 2-4. These three parts revolve around action in various DDI offices in the preparation of an SNIE on Africana, and around the situation and developments in Africana during this period. So far as the DDI is concerned, both its organization and

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its methods of operation, there are so many misrepresentations of today's picture that it would be pointless to list them all here. The picture throughout is one of a leisurely approach to intelligence, with virtually no reference at all to the DDI's current intelligence support to the government. The changes that have taken place in the intelligence production picture since 1960 are largely ignored. The emphasis throughout is on the production of an Estimate (and that not too realistically) and remains on that even as a coup occurs in Africana. Some truly incredible points:

5X1A (1) When [redacted] calls the Operations Center with the first news of the Africana coup, the SDO's first call is to the National Indications Center. Nothing is indicated regarding calls to the White House, State, etc.; there is no indication of a CIB item being prepared; etc., etc.



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(3) An ORR/IRA/NE analyst (sic!) predicts (only within his own shop, of course!) there will be changes in the Africana government; when the coup occurs, the film shows a news clipping implying that CIA has been caught flatfooted and people in Washington do not know what's going on in Africa. The apparent intent here is to tell viewers not to believe such press stories -- after all, did not CIA (i.e., ORR) know a coup was coming? But according to the film, as I remember it, CIA (and ORR) had never gotten around to telling anyone that there might be a coup in Africana!

II. "Resume"

This film was put together with clippings from various operational training films and from the DDI film reviewed above. The film when I saw it, was scheduled for showing during the 27-28 September 1966 JCS/DIA Orientation (the off-shoot from Project USEFUL); at my

suggestion, the film was not shown, and I arranged for an additional speaker (the Director of Current Intelligence) to fill in the time of the schedule.

My initial response to the stimulus of "Resume" was (I admit to only a small amount of hyperbole here) a mental comparison of it with some recent revivals of old Mack Sennett comedies. The part on the DDI and the production of intelligence was very much out of date (see above review). My reaction to the clippings from the old training films was also negative. I have not seen the entire movies from which these clippings were taken and am not in a position to comment on their usefulness as wholes; I did, however, feel strongly that there was little to be gained--and perhaps a reputation to be lost--in presenting the truncated versions to a group of senior non-Agency officials. The films are somewhat old and look it; today's eye pretty much expects black-and-white films only in documentary use, and certainly the average man expects an on-the-ball modern organization to put its best training (and, of course, propaganda/publicity) foot forward in color; espionage and covert operations are just not the little-known esoteric business they were a decade ago. The flood of books, movies, and TV shows may have left the great commonman with misapprehensions and misunderstandings, but they have certainly raised his sophistication level.

In any case, it was my opinion the film should not be shown to an audience of JCS and DIA officials--and at the moment I can think of no audience which deserves such treatment.

III. "The Academy Anonymous"

25X1A This film is much better than the ones reviewed above. It shows [REDACTED] and describes activities there; it illustrates the training there with shots of various training exercises throughout the course of an evening.

The film does distinguish between intelligence collection and "non-attributable activities"--though I wonder whether a viewer who was following the film more with eyes than his ears might not get the impression from seeing a picture of an NIE and then not long after seeing a part of an oil refinery blown up might not end up with the impression that somehow or other there was some direct link between the two. But that is perhaps nitpicking, as perhaps also is my personal view that the

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intellectual side of intelligence is given relatively short shrift in the commentary. The fact is that the film does seem to do what it was apparently designed to do; and as for a judgment on the sophistication level, I will observe here a de-gustibus courtesy.

But I was much bothered by the comparison in the commentary of this establishment with the service academies. I have not yet [REDACTED] -but, then, neither, presumably, have the people to whom this film might be shown. Whatever the facts may be, I believe the average viewer would consider the comparison of the training illustrated here with the education given at West Point or Annapolis somewhat, to say the least, presumptuous--some might even begin to wonder whether the Agency has kept its perspective.

IV. "Vietnam, The Other War," "In Search of Peace," and "The Third Challenge"

These are three non-CIA films which were shown during the two-week Intelligence Orientation of the CTP. All are interesting and meaningful; while not essential, they are useful and also serve to break up the lecture-discussion pattern of the instruction days.

"Vietnam, The Other War" is a film which was used on commercial TV. It is in color and quite professional. It might have been useful to have followed the film with some added comments, perhaps especially from a DDP viewpoint for perspective purposes.

"In Search of Peace" is a relatively recent State Department film. It shows Rusk, Ball, and others speaking on U.S. policy, objectives and programs overseas, and it maintains a high tone. Although it has been dated somewhat by the Ball resignation and by recent developments in Nigeria (shots of Nigeria are used in the film), the film is still good.

"The Third Challenge" gives a picture of the U.S. Army Special Forces and other specialist groups of the U.S. military with emphasis on counterguerilla and counterinsurgency training. It is in color and professionally done.